

10/588295  
IAP11 Rec'd PCT/PTO 04 AUG 2006

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Chartrain, M. et al.		
Serial No.:	To be assigned	Case: 21502P	Art Unit: To be assigned
Filed:	Herewith		
For:	PROCESS FOR LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION OF PLASMID DNA BY <i>E. COLI</i> FERMENTATION		Examiner: To be assigned

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants request entry of this amendment prior to examination of the above-identified application, which is the 35 U.S.C. § 371 national stage prosecution of PCT international application serial no. PCT/US2005/002911, filed January 31, 2005, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. provisional application 60/541,894, filed February 4, 2004.

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement/PTO 1449 in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(1) and copies of the cited art.

Any fees associated with the submission of this amendment can be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**REMARKS** begin on page 8 of this paper.

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**  
DATE OF DEPOSIT August 4, 2006  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EK321988945 115  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL  
SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"  
ON THE ABOVE DATE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450,  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450.  
MAILED BY [Signature]  
DATE August 4, 2006